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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 38

JANUARY 12, 1946

SOMEWHAT MORE PIGS THIS SPRING

The December pig report indicated farmers' intentions to breed 8,542,000 sows to farrow this spring. This would be about 4 percent more than farrowed in spring of 1945, about 9 percent above 10-year average, but 30 percent below record number in spring 1943. If these breeding intentions are carried out and number of pigs saved per litter should be about average, the 1946 spring crop would total about 52,400,000 head (about 2 percent above 1945 spring crop).

The fall pig crop of 1945 was 35,144,000 head, 12 percent larger than previous fall. The spring crop of 1945 was 51,570,000 head, making the total 1945 pig crop 86,714,000, practically the same as 1944, but 29 percent below the record crop of 1943. Total crop in Corn Belt was 4 percent larger and outside the Corn Belt 11 percent smaller than year previous.

The number of hogs over six months old on farms December 1 was about the same as a year previous.

MORE CATTLE AND LAMBS ON FEED

More cattle on feed this winter than last, both in Corn Belt and outside. Total number of stocker and feeder cattle shipped into 8 Corn Belt States in October 669,000 head, 27 percent more than year earlier. Large feeder movement also into South Dakota and Nebraska. Stocker and feeder cattle shipped into the Corn Belt in 4 months July-October 1,315,000 head, compared with 1,234,000 head in like period year ago. Shipments to 5 eastern Corn Belt States 31 percent over year ago, to 3 Western Corn Belt States 3 percent less. Considerable soft corn has induced heavy feeding to salvage it.

Lamb feeding also large in Corn Belt but fewer on wheat pastures of Southwest. Feeder lambs shipped into 8 Corn Belt States July-October 13 percent over same period year ago.

FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN AND HAY

Stocks of corn on farms January 1 totaled 1,931 million bushels, smallest in five years but 17 percent above 10-year average (1935-44). Iowa farmers had smallest supply of corn since 1938.

Stocks of wheat on farms 369 million bushels, compared with 391 million year previous, 491 million two years previous and 268 million for the 1935-44 average.

Oats stocks 988 million bushels, largest on record. 245 million bushels or 33 percent more than year

earlier and 312 million or 46 percent above average.

Stocks of hay 71 1/2 tons, second largest quantity in last 9 years of record.

Stocks of soybeans 43.3 million bushels, compared with 42 million year ago, 57 million two years ago and 88 million three years ago.

NUMBER YOUNG CHICKENS UP 11 PERCENT

Hens laid 3,411 million eggs in December. This about equaled record December 1944 output and was 54 percent above previous 10-year average. For the entire year 1945, egg production totaled 55,218 million eggs, 5 percent under 1944 record but larger than any other year and 38 percent above 10-year average. Average eggs per hen laid in 1945 was 151 eggs, compared with 147 in 1944 and 132 for the 10-year average.

Farm flocks averaged 411 million layers during December, 2 percent under year previous although still 19 percent above average.

Number of young chickens on farms January 1, 380 million birds, 11 percent above year ago and 26 percent above average. Total number of chickens, young and old, January 1 was 528 million or 3 percent above year ago. Number of pullets 323 million or 8 percent above year ago and 25 percent above average. Number of pullets up in all parts of country. Number of potential layers—all hens plus pullets not of laying age—470 million, about like year ago and 17 percent above average. Of these, 69 percent were pullets and 31 percent hens, compared with 64 percent pullets and 36 percent hens year ago and average.

1945 MILK PRODUCTION A RECORD

Milk production during December 8 1/2 billion pounds, 2 percent below December 1944. Tentative estimate of 1945 total milk production 123 billion pounds, most ever produced, 4 billion pounds more than in 1944. Large number of cows, heavy demand for milk, and excellent crop and pasture conditions combined to make the milk record.

Milk production in 1946 expected to decline slightly, extent depending upon weather and prices. Number of milk cows probably will be reduced somewhat. Cows being milked January 1 amounted to 63.7 percent of all cows in the herds, lowest percentage for this date since 1925. Milk production per cow during 1945 averaged nearly 4800 pounds, 5 percent above previous year and 1 percent

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	NOV. 15 1945	DEC. 15 1945	DEC. 15 1945
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.53	1.54	1.56
Corn, bu. dol.	1.11	1.09	1.13
Peanuts, lb. dol.	8.30	8.32	8.45
Cotton, lb. ct.	22.52	22.84	21.82
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.31	1.37	1.28
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.20	14.20	12.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.40	11.50	9.54
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.40	13.50	11.90
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.80	12.90	10.30
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.3	50.5	¹ 50.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.37	3.40	¹ 3.09
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.9	23.8	20.1
Eggs, doz. ct.	47.1	48.8	¹ 46.5

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

above previous record in 1942. Production per cow this year may decline somewhat under that 1945 record.

PLENTY OF FRESH VEGETABLES

Total production of commercial truck crops for fresh market, in first quarter of 1946 forecast 40 percent above average although 4 percent below first quarter last year. Output of these crops reached a new record high in 1945. Truck crops for processing in 1945 totaled 4 percent below 1944 but 31 percent above 10-year average 1934-43. The record fresh market crops last year included cabbage, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, and tomatoes and near records were made in snap beans and carrots. Crops below average included artichokes, beets, and green peas.

Total value of 25 commercial truck crops produced for fresh market in 1945 set a record of nearly 626 million dollars, about 18 percent above 1944 and nearly 12 percent above previous record in 1943. The total value of 11 crops produced for processing last year was lower than the peak in 1944.

Total 1945-46 pack of commercially canned vegetables is indicated as a record 6.7 billion pounds. This pack is about 4 percent above 1944-45 and 62 percent above 1935-39 average.

WORLD SUGAR LESS

World sugar production, beet and cane, for 1945-46 season indicated 27.8 million short tons (raw value) or about 400,000 tons smaller than in 1944-45, 2.7 million less than 1943-44 and 6.5 million tons under 1935-39 average. Increase in Western Hemisphere more than offset by decrease elsewhere.

Beet sugar estimated 7.3 million tons, smallest since 1923. Cane sugar 20.5 million tons, about 1/2 million above last season but 1.4 million under 1943-44 and 2 million under pre-war average. Sugar production in *United States* and Territories up from low level of 1943-44 but still about 3 percent below pre-war average.

Cuba, largest export producer, 1945-46 output expected to be 21 percent larger than last season and about 50 percent more than controlled in pre-war years.

MORE FLAXSEED IN TEXAS

Fall plantings of flaxseed in the Southwest—Texas, Arizona and California—indicated 224,000 acres, 12 percent more than the 200,000 acres seeded a year ago. The entire increase is in Texas (38 percent).

AMPLE CITRUS CROP

Production of principal citrus fruits for 1945-46 season estimated 188 million boxes, 6 percent more than last season and about 51 percent above average (1934-43). *United States orange*

crop estimated 107.4 million boxes, 2 percent below last season's record. Early and mid-season oranges 48.6 million boxes, compared with 47.3 million last season. Valencias forecast 58.7 million boxes, compared with 61.7 million last season. *Grapefruit* crop indicated 63 million boxes, a record crop, compares with 1944-45 crop of 52 million boxes. Texas grapefruit estimated 23 million boxes, slightly more than last season. Florida *tangerines* estimated 4 million boxes, same as last season.

DELICIOUS LEADS ALL APPLES

What are the leading varieties of apples? Out of last year's crop (64,400,000 bushels, shortest crop ever grown) the following were the leading varieties in order of importance: Delicious 17,230,000 bushels, Winesap 9,367,000 bushels, Jonathan 5,411,000, Rome Beauty 4,529,000, and Yellow Newtown (Albemarle Pippin) 4,317,000.

FEWEST FARM WORKERS ON RECORD

Number of farm workers January 1 was the lowest in 21 years of record. Number of family workers down 2 percent and hired workers 8 percent under year ago. Total number of workers on farms 7,732,000, compared with 8,005,000 year ago. Number of *family* workers 6,412,000, compared with 6,571,000 last year. Number of *hired* workers 1,320,000, compared with 1,434,000 last year. This is of course the slack work season on farms.

Farm wages Jan. 1 averaged \$4.40 per day without board, compared with \$4.15 year previous. The average wage per month without board was \$95.30, compared with \$88.90 year ago. The wage index is 347, the 1910-14 average being considered as 100.

The number of World War II veterans placed under the Farm Labor Program January through November 1945 was 29,485. Foreign workers on farms January 1, 1946 included Mexicans 22,895, Jamaicans 4,715, Bahamians 4,168, Newfoundlanders 848, Prisoners of War 47,763, total 80,406.

FARM INCOME

Income received by farmers from sale of their products during November 1945 totaled 2,258 million dollars compared with 2,256 million year ago. Farm income for 11 months January-November totaled 19,692 million dollars in 1945, compared with 19,291 million in 1944. This included Government payments of 763 million dollars in 1945 compared with 760 million in 1944.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	DEC. 1945
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	207
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	176
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	118
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	168
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 180
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 364
RATIOS	LONG-TIME DEC. - AVERAGE	DEC. 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.1	12.8
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	24.4	27.5
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.25	1.41
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	12.6	13.4
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - NOV. 1944	JAN. - NOV. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	110.3	114.8
Eggs, (Bil.)	54.5	51.8
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	6,077	6,704
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	806	833
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	11,677	7,130
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .	19,405	15,425

¹September figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. September figure.